

VILLAGE OF HEBRON
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2022

President Shelton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees Shepherd, Mogan, Drevalas, Stevens, Peterson, and Lange answered aye to roll call.

Motion to Approve the Minutes of December 27, 2021, Village Board Meeting

Trustee Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 27, 2021, Village Board meeting. Trustee Drevalas seconded the motion. Trustees Peterson, Drevalas, Lange, Mogan, Shepherd, and Stevens approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried.

Motion to Approve the December 2021/January 2022 Accounts Payable

Trustee Shepherd made a motion to approve the December 2021/January 2022 accounts payable as presented. Trustee Mogan seconded the motion. Trustee Shepherd reported that there was \$14,309.29 due in accounts payable for General Fund and \$21,982.28 due in the Water/Sewer Fund accounts payable. The total due for accounts payable was \$36,291.57. Trustee Shepherd stated that there were no add-ons to the payables. Trustee Peterson questioned why the sewer amounts were high this month. Discussion ensued regarding the reasons for high sewer payables which included needed repairs, including Price Road, the block heater on the lift station and a valve at the south tower of the sewer plant. Trustee Shepherd, Mogan, Stevens, Drevalas, Lange, and Peterson approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried by all.

President's Report

President Shelton reported that he has been working on the budgets with department heads. He announced that he has been collaborating with a potential developer interested in the Kennedy property. In addition, he announced that there is a possible buyer of the property at the corner of Route 47 and Route 173, which previously was known as Beaner's. The potential buyer is interested in opening a floral business in the hope of supplying flowers to the local wedding venues in the area. The Donut Shop will be opening soon, but no date is set yet. President Shelton reported that business registrations are coming in and the Clerk is processing them. This emergency contact information will be sent to the Alden Hebron Greenwood Fire District and the Hebron Police Department by the Clerk.

Public Comments

Penny Smith, 10113 Brigham Trail, is a school board member and announced that on February 16th at the next school board meeting, an architect will be present to give a facility presentation. She added that, before Christmas, the Tuesday COVID testing at the school stopped and has not resumed. She reported that it will continue at the fire station moving forward. As a resident, she stated that she would like to see the second public comment session added back into future Village Board agendas. She feels that this allows the public to express their concerns and saves the residents time as their issues can be expressed regarding current agenda items. They would not have to wait to address these issues at the next board meeting.

Presentation of Certificates and Prizes for the Winners of the 2021 Resident Christmas Light Contest

President Shelton announced the results of the Christmas Light Contest once again as follows:

- Third Place went to Tammy Lillie of 9613 Woods Lane
- Second Place went to Adam Mass of 9706 Illinois Avenue
- First Place went to Ken Wappler of 12010 Third Avenue

As none of the winners were in attendance, the Village Clerk will send the certificates and checks in the mail.

Motion to Approve joining the McHenry County Co-Responder Police Social Worker Program

Trustee Mogan made a motion to approve joining the McHenry County Co-Responder Police Social Worker Program. Trustee Stevens seconded the motion. President Shelton and Chief Donlea met with members from the McHenry County Sheriff's Department, a social worker, and Chalen from the McHenry County Council of Governments, to discuss the McHenry County Co-Responder Police Social Worker Program. He explained that the premise of this program is to have the initial response to non-threatening incidents be that of a trained social worker or a member from the fire department. The Police Department will still respond, however. They are asking for a two-year commitment at \$2,500 per year for a total of \$5,000. President Shelton expressed that he feels this fee to be exorbitant when the Police have already received training for these situations and are already available. He feels that these funds would better serve other Village needs.

Trustee Peterson asked Chief Donlea to give his opinion on this program. Chief Donlea explained that the County would send social workers in for de-escalation, but the police would still arrive as the first responder. If it is not a harmful situation, the social worker would intervene. The issues stem from drug addiction to those that have just fallen on challenging times. Currently, Chief Donlea did not feel that this program is necessary as the officers have also received training to de-escalate calls. He feels that the Hebron officers are exceptionally good in diffusing the situation. Trustee Peterson added that the officers are well-known within the Village and this is beneficial to the residents in these situations. Trustee Lange asked if the police have any additional training for such calls. Chief Donlea confirmed that there was no additional training, but it is covered in their regular training. He added that they have enough coverage and can call on the fire department as well for assistance.

President Shelton stated the new program, if approved, would begin in May of 2022. He added that if it was not approved, it would not diminish the Village's ability to deal with these issues. Trustee Mogan said that there are Villages that have social workers on staff, but the size of the Village of Hebron and the funds available currently do not support this program. Trustee Mogan, Stevens, Lange, Drevalas, Shepherd and Peterson voted against the motion by answering nay. Motion denied.

Motion to Approve Decreasing Current Working Police Budget by \$100,000 Effective January 31, 2022

Trustee Shepherd made a motion to approve decreasing the current working police budget by \$100,000 effective January 31, 2022. Trustee Mogan seconded the motion. President Shelton has been reviewing the Police Department budget which was put in place by the previous administration. It has increased from roughly \$127,000 to \$435,000 during that term. During the previous budget, the Police Department went well over budget and this year they will be over budget again. He added that the Village does not have the funds, including the use of grant money, to make necessary repairs to maintain the streets and infrastructure. He continued by stating that the Village could still have 24/7 police coverage by using the McHenry County Sheriff's Department to fill any gaps not covered by the Hebron Police if their budget was trimmed, which they do already when there are open shifts.

Trustee Drevalas asked why there was a date January 31, 2022, for this motion to take effect. President Shelton explained that the union contract calls for a 90-day notification of termination period. This affords the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) an opportunity to propose possible alternatives. Trustee Drevalas asked what the \$100,000 savings would be used for. President Shelton said that the savings would be placed in a fund for future maintenance of streets and infrastructure. This fund would not be touched and would have the ability to grow annually. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of street repairs and the need to continue to look at bringing in new business to the Village. President Shelton stated that the street repairs are costly and that is why it is necessary to make cuts. Discussion ensued as to the cost of the use of the Sheriff's Department to fill in for the Hebron Police during any gaps in coverage. Trustee Lange asked what the response time would be using the County. Chief Donlea thought that it would be a minimal difference. They would merely respond to a call, but they would not be looking for issues within the Village.

Trustee Stevens stated that looking at the Chief's report, the Department on average responds to roughly seven calls a day. At three officers on duty per day, it works out to roughly 2.5 calls per officer per day. Trustee Stevens questioned what do the officers do the remainder of their shifts. Discussion ensued with the Chief explaining some of the other duties involved in their department. President Shelton confirmed that there are currently six full-time officers, including the Chief, and four part-time officers. He added that the department uses older vehicles which do require maintenance and funding is not available to purchase new vehicles. Trustee Shepherd stated that the current salary and wages were put in place by the previous administration. He explained that the budget for FY21-22 was set at \$320,000 for salaries and wages bringing the total per month to roughly \$26,000. Currently, the average spending for salaries and wages per month is at \$30,202. He added that the police department will be over budget at the end of the fiscal year. He said that this has been an issue in previous years as well and he feels that something must be cut from the police department to help fund other departments within the Village.

President Shelton reported that the Village can offer officers to stay home on a holiday, but if they choose to work, their pay is at 3.5 times their normal wage. He added that regarding layoffs, as stated in the FOP contract, those who are impacted would be the first to rehired if they so choose for two years. Trustee Peterson questioned how President Shelton decided on the figure of \$100.00 to be cut from the police budget. President Shelton felt a twenty-five percent decrease was reasonable. Trustee Lange

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asked how many officers would be let go. President Shelton stated that it would impact two full-time and all the part-time officers. He explained that out of the remaining officers, three of them would be able to cover eight-hour shifts five days a week along with the Chief. Trustee Peterson asked if the school program headed by the Village Police Department would still be available. Chief Donlea stated that Officer Biancalana is the officer that runs that program and he would be impacted by the cuts. He added one of the other officers may be able to take over that program, however. Trustee Stevens asked if anyone has researched and compared police budgets of other Villages of comparable size with the current Village police budget. Discussion ensued. Trustee Drevalas wanted further investigation before deciding. Trustee Stevens disagreed adding that the police department has been over budget yearly and cannot continue to spend beyond their means. Trustee Mogan stated that the Village has operated the police department in the past as part-time only. He said that McHenry County will cover calls for emergencies and they will advise people to call the Village the next day regarding minor issues such as a damaged mailbox. He continued to state that this is at no real cost to the Village.

Discussion ensued regarding potential savings due to cuts to the police department. Trustee Lange would like to see this tabled to research this further. President Shelton stated that if the motion passes, eventually the funds saved would be appropriated into other areas of need. He added that any sewer repairs must be paid out of the sewer department funds. Trustee Lange expressed concern that the roads should not be repaired prior to repairing the sewer infrastructure beneath them first.

Trustee Drevalas made a motion to table the approval of decreasing the current working police budget by \$100,000 effective January 31, 2022. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. Trustee Drevalas, Peterson, and Lange vote aye and Trustee Stevens, Shepherd, and Mogan voted nay. President Shelton voted nay to break the tie. Motion denied.

Trustees Shepherd, Mogan, and Stevens voted aye to the original motion. Trustee Drevalas, Peterson, and Lange voted nay. President Shelton voted aye to break the tie. Motion carried.

Department Head Reports

President Shelton reported for *Superintendent Nelson* in his absence that they repaired the payloader, removed Christmas lights, maintained equipment, repaired the block heater at the main lift station, and plowed during recent storms. He also reported for *Frank Michalczyk* that there were water meter change outs, a new control was installed on the main lift generator, and his department has received the diffusers for the south aeration tank which will be installed once the weather warms up. He also reported that there is ice currently in both the north and south digesters.

Chief Donlea reported that the police department issued tickets and responded to calls as listed in the report in the Board packets.

There were no other reports.

Attorney Report

There was a brief update on the status of the J&L litigation.

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Board Comments

Trustee Shepherd reported that the \$120,000 grant possibility from McHenry County is just waiting on HUD and no one has contested it moving forward. He has continued to follow up with Steve Wright and Lauren Underwood and MCCG regarding potential grant opportunities.

President Shelton commended Trustee Mogan for the Village updates that he posts on the Village Facebook page.

Trustee Drevalas announced that the raffle for the doll house is complete raising \$1,172.45 for the local food pantry. She also requested to add a motion to the next agenda to approve moving the “public comments” on future Village meeting agenda.

Trustee Peterson talked about the school board meeting and reported that the schools have been doing diagnostic testing and are currently testing at 70 percent in reading and math. The School District will offer summer school to students that are below grade level. She added that the school district is preparing for a referendum and they are striving for transparency during this process. The school will hold focus groups with members from the district, community, businesses, parents, church members, and Village educators. They want to determine if the community would support a referendum. Penny Smith, school board member, added that they want the community to decide what they want and will hold its first meeting on February 16 at the elementary school at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Lange agreed with Trustee Drevalas to move the public comments session of the agenda or else add a second comment session. He commended Dan Nelson for an excellent job on snow removal.

President Shelton reported that the Village Board meeting on February 14 is canceled, and the next Village Board meeting will be on Monday, February 28 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Trustee Peterson made a motion to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. Trustee Mogan seconded the motion. Motion carried by all.



Jean Attermeier,
Village Clerk



Robert W. Shelton
Village President

